

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQS SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE ([HTTP://ARPA-E.ENERGY.GOV/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS](http://arpa-e.energy.gov/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS)) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQS AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

I. Questions for week ending: MARCH 4, 2016

Q1. I have a question regarding this FOA. I know it mainly focuses on solid ionic conductors, but will any research on composite membrane structures (to work with liquid electrolytes) that enable Li electrode cycling considered by this FOA?

ANSWER:

ARPA-E will not pre-assess the eligibility of an applicant's anticipated submission. Applicants are encouraged to review Section I (Funding Opportunity Description) of the Integration and Optimization of Novel ION Conducting Solids (IONICS) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and make their own determination to submit a Concept Paper or not to submit a Concept Paper.

Also, see ARPA-E's FAQ page at <http://arpa-e.energy.gov/faq>. In particular, FAQ # 7 under the Subheading "General Questions on Funding Opportunities" provides as follows: "I have developed a technology that may be a good fit for an ARPA-E FOA. Will ARPA-E review my idea and let me know if it is responsive to the FOA? ARPA-E will review compliant and responsive concept paper submissions and provide feedback either encouraging or discouraging submission of a Full Application. See the 'Application Process Overview' section of the FOA for Concept Paper review process. Concept Paper submissions are compliant if they meet the 'Compliant Criteria' of the FOA, and are responsive if they meet or exceed the 'Technical Performance Targets' provided in the FOA and do not fall under the 'Applications Specifically Not of Interest' section of the FOA."

Q2. Our intention is to use XYZ in our submission under the IONICS FOA. Here are some technical details supporting our concept. . . . My question is whether our proposed approach is responsive to this solicitation.

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Q3. If the proposal is submitted by an academic institution, is an industry partner essential for the ARPA-E DE-FOA-0001478? If the academic institution can demonstrate the technology proposed at the university lab with a larger cell, is it fine to propose without an industry partner?

ANSWER: There is no requirement for academic institutions to team with an industry partner. Applicants should consider that, as stated in Section I.B.1 (Summary) of the FOA, it is desirable for teams to have the competence to guide technical developments in a manner “to address large-area fabrication and low-cost processing.” Potential applicants are encouraged to review Section III (Eligibility Information) and Section IV.C.1.d (Team Capabilities) of the FOA for additional information.

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ANSWER: Upon the issuance of a FOA, only the ARPA-E Contracting Officer may communicate with Applicants. ARPA-E Program Directors, other ARPA-E personnel and support contractors are all prohibited from communicating (in writing or otherwise) with Applicants regarding the FOA. This “quiet period” remains in effect until ARPA-E’s public announcement of its project selections. During the “quiet period,” Applicants are required to submit all questions regarding this FOA to ARPA-E-CO@hq.doe.gov. Please see Section VII.A Communications with ARPA-E for further guidance on how to communicate with ARPA-E about this funding opportunity. Applicants can access the Concept paper template in the “Required Application Documents” section of the DE-FOA-0001478 IONICS FOA on the ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Exchange website (<http://ARPA-E-FOA.energy.gov>).

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Also, see ARPA-E's FAQ page at <http://arpa-e.energy.gov/faq>. In particular, FAQ # 8 under the Subheading "General Questions on Funding Opportunities" provides as follows: "Can ARPA-E advise applicants as to which Category and/or Subcategory is appropriate for specific technology concepts? Applicants must choose the appropriate Category and Subcategory for their submission based on technical descriptions the Categories and/or Subcategories provided in the FOA."